

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the final Office Action dated February 8, 2006. Claims 6-11 are pending in the patent application. Claims 6-11 are amended. No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Prompt and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Applicants thank Examiner Larose for granting a Telephonic Interview on March 15, 2006 at which Examiner Larose and MacLane Key, Applicants' representative, were present. Agreement was not reached. However, Examiner Larose indicated that the amendments made by this response appear to overcome the art of record, but that Examiner Larose would prefer to perform an additional search in view of the amendments. Further, Examiner Larose expressed concern over the use of the term "jaggy" in the specification. Applicants respectfully direct Examiner Larose's attention to page 2, line 7 – page 3, line 16, which states in part, "The phenomenon wherein a portion which originally is a straight line is displayed in a stepwise shape in this manner is called jaggy." Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the term "jaggy" in view of the specification.

Claims 6-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Furusawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,050,227 ("Furusawa"). At least for the reasons set forth below, Applicant believes that the rejections raised in the Office Action have been overcome and thus should be withdrawn.

Claim 6 relates to an image processing apparatus that includes detection means for detecting a boundary line between a first pixel of a plurality of pixels and a second pixel of the plurality of pixels by comparing differences between pixel values of the first pixel and the second pixel. The image processing apparatus also includes weighting means for weighting the first pixel based on the spatial distance between the first pixel and the second pixel and the position of the boundary line calculated by a position calculation means.

Furusawa relates to a method for smoothing in a tangential direction of a contour and detail enhancement in its perpendicular direction simultaneously with spatial filters having a weighing factor distribution. The Office Action relies upon the borders of areas such as R1 and R2 shown in Figs. 3A and 3B to teach a boundary line. Furusawa discloses that the weighting factors can be influenced by the distance between a central pixel of a mask and the outline of a designated area (i.e., the border of areas such as R1 and R2). Col. 6, Lines 47-55. However, the

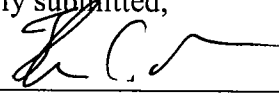
Furusawa does not disclose that the boundary line is between a first and second pixel and that the boundary line is detected by comparing differences between pixel values for the first and second pixels. Instead, Furusawa teaches that the outline of the designated area is determined by a user specifying one or more continuous line segments. The outline of the designated area is then determined to be a distance, d , from the user-specified line segment. Col. 4, Lines 14-38. For at least these reasons, Furusawa does not disclose or suggest weighting a first pixel based in part upon the position of a boundary line wherein the boundary line is between the first pixel and a second pixel and the boundary line is detected by comparing differences between pixel values of the first pixel and the second pixel. Thus, Furusawa does not disclose or suggest weighting means for weighting said first pixel based on the spatial distance between said first pixel and said second pixel and the position of the boundary line as described in Claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Claim 6 and Claim 9, which depends from Claim 6, are each patentably distinguished over Furusawa and are in condition for allowance. For similar reasons, Claim 7 and Claim 10, which depends from Claim 7, and Claim 8 and Claim 11, which depends from Claim 8, are each patentably distinguished over Furusawa and are in condition for allowance.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 6-11 are patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BY



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